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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 23, 2004**

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### **ARIZONA WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR CHILD SMUGGLING**

**TUCSON, ARIZONA** –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on February 23, 2004, Chrystal Salazar, DOB (12/22/84), of Douglas, Arizona, was sentenced to 18 months in prison by United States District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson, in Tucson, Arizona, for conspiracy to smuggle a child into the United States. On January 22, 2004, United States Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Marshall imposed a four month term of imprisonment on defendant for violating her probation by engaging in the same act of child smuggling. That four month sentence is consecutive to the term imposed today, resulting in 22 months total imprisonment.

On October 23, 2003, Chrystal Salazar was attempting to enter the United States from the Republic of Mexico at the Douglas Port of Entry in Arizona. Ms. Salazar had three children in the car with her. One of the children (a male, age 1) was a citizen of Mexico and did not have legal authority to be in the United States. Ms. Salazar falsely claimed that she was the “babysitter” for the child and the child was a United States citizen. Ms. Salazar had driven from the United States into the Republic of Mexico after having made arrangements to pick up in Agua Prieta, Mexico, the one year old Mexican child that she did

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not know. Once she picked up the child from a stranger, she took him to the Douglas Port of Entry. Ms. Salazar was to take the child to a trailer park to leave with a man named "Luis." Ms. Salazar expected to be paid \$300 once she got the child into the United States illegally.

Defendant pled guilty to Conspiracy to Bring in Illegal Aliens in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I), and 1324 (a)(1)(B)(i), a felony, on December 12, 2003. In sentencing the defendant, the Honorable Judge Jorgenson determined that a sentencing enhancement was justified in this matter due to the one year old child being a "vulnerable victim" as it is defined under the federal sentencing guidelines. After her release from custody, defendant will additionally serve a three year sentence of supervised release.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement of Douglas. The prosecution was handled by Danny N. Roetzel, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-2297-TUC-CKJ  
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